



NAME	Masonic Temple			REF. NO.	5
ADDRESS	501-505 North Sycamore Street *				
CITY	Santa Ana	ZIP	92701	ORANGE COUNTY	
YEAR BUILT	1931	LOCAL REGISTER CATEGORY: Landmark			
HISTORIC DISTRICT	Downtown Santa Ana	NEIGHBORHOOD	N/A		
NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION	A, C	NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS CODE	1D		

Location:  Not for Publication       Unrestricted

USGS 7.5" Quad \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ ¼ of \_\_\_\_\_ ¼ of Sec \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ B.M.

Prehistoric       Historic       Both

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Art Deco

**DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND RELATED TO PERIOD ARCHITECTURE:**

The Art Deco style is characterized by smooth wall surfaces, often of stucco; zig zags, chevrons, fluting, reeding, and other low-relief stylized and geometric motifs as decorative elements on the façade; accents of terra cotta, glass, or metal; polychromy; rectangular or compound forms; and a more vertical emphasis than its close stylistic relative, Streamline Moderne. Art Deco was essentially a style of decoration and was applied to jewelry, clothing, furniture and handicrafts as well as architecture. In style between 1920 and 1940, Art Deco was popularized by the Exposition des Arts Decoratifs held in Paris in 1925. It was most commonly utilized on commercial or public buildings, sometimes in combination with the Gothic Revival whose verticality and sculptural decoration was ideally suited to the Art Deco style.

\* See construction history

**CONSTRUCTION HISTORY:** (Construction data, alterations, and date of alterations)

Note: Historically, this building also included the addresses 113-123 West Fifth Street.

July 30, 1930. Masonic Temple Lodge Building.  
March 23, 1933. Repair earthquake damage.  
October 4, 1956. Fire escape and exits.  
March 15, 1972. Repair masonry.  
March 10, 1999. Seismic rehab.  
October 16, 2000. Refurbish exterior, interior tenant improvement, T-bar ceiling, roof-mounted equipment.  
May 22, 2001. Tenant improvement, 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

**RELATED FEATURES:** (Other important features such as barns, sheds, fences, prominent or unusual trees, or landscape)

None

**DESCRIPTION:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, settings, and boundaries.)

Located on the northeast corner of Sycamore and Fifth Streets, the Masonic Temple is a four-story building anchored by a six-story tower centered on the primary (west) elevation. Of steel, concrete, and brick construction, the building is organized into three large bays on the west and seven smaller bays on the south elevation. A strong vertical emphasis is created by the tower and by the uninterrupted piers that define the bay divisions. The tower bay contains the building entry, set within a large segmental arched opening. Above it, three deeply set casement windows with transoms occupy the second story. A recessed channel of glazing, divided into small, square lights, rises through the third and fourth stories to terminate in Gothic arched heads. The tower culminates in three pairs of pointed arch windows on the fifth floor and flat-headed windows on the sixth floor. Ornate wrought iron lanterns are attached to the piers on either side of the entry, and a heraldic shield and a flagpole are located at the base of the third story. Above the street level, the side bays on the west façade are each divided into three sections by pilasters. Fenestration consists of single casement windows with transoms on the second floor, elongated windows on the third floor, and paired, small casements set within pointed arches on the fourth floor. A similar fenestration scheme characterizes the south elevation. All of the windows are deeply recessed, with lintels that slope outwards to the exterior wall surface. The street level bays south of the entry and along the Fifth Street frontage contain glazed storefronts and display windows banded by transoms. North of the entry, a solid wall is pierced by two, small openings. The Masonic Temple displays a high degree of integrity on the exterior; historic photographs reveal that the principal alteration was the removal of pointed arch transoms above the third floor windows at an unknown date. Boarded up in 1985, the building was converted to a performing arts center in the year 2000.

**HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS:**

The Masonic organization in Santa Ana traces its beginnings to October 1, 1875. Many of the young community's most prominent residents, including George Vance, A. W. Birch, J. H. Gregg, C. H. Humphries, James Fruit, and J. W. Layman among others, were among the early members. As one of the most prominent fraternal organizations in Santa Ana, the Masons grew along with the city. Following the ceremonial laying of the cornerstone on December 5, 1930, this impressive facility was constructed in 1930-1931 at a cost of \$300,000. Prominent Long Beach architect Horace B. Austin, whose other credits in Santa Ana include the old City Hall and the Bowers Museum, designed the building. Austin's illustrious achievements in Long Beach include the designs for the old City Hall (demolished), several schools, the original Buffum's Department Store (demolished), the YMCA (demolished), the Pacific Tower, and the Press-Telegram Building. Contractors for the Santa Ana Masonic Temple were L. E. Miller and T. P. Schultz. Built to house several Masonic groups, the building featured a highly decorated lodge hall, auditorium, banquet hall, lounges, library, penthouse apartment, and five retail shops.

**RESOURCE ATTRIBUTES:** (List attributes and codes from Appendix 4 of Instructions for Recording Historical Resources, Office of Historic Preservation.)

HP 13: Community Center / Social Hall

**RESOURCES PRESENT:**

Building     Structure     Object     Site     District     Element of District     Other

**MOVED?**    No     Yes     Unknown    Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Original Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:** (Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, geographic scope, and integrity.)

Santa Ana was founded by William Spurgeon in 1869 as a speculative townsite on part of the Spanish land grant known as Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana. Early growth and development was stimulated by the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1878 and the Santa Fe Railroad in 1886. By the end of the 1880s, Santa Ana’s downtown business district was defined by five city blocks of brick commercial buildings on Fourth Street, with the heart of the city at the intersection of Fourth and Main Streets. Following its incorporation as a city in 1886, Santa Ana was recognized as one of the leading communities in the area in 1889 when it became the seat of the newly created County of Orange.

From the beginning, social and fraternal organizations played an important role in the history of the town. The Masons and the Oddfellows both organized in 1875, and were followed before the close of the decade by the Good Templars Lodge and the Workmen Lodge. Dedicated to community service and fellowship, such organizations sponsored community events, often held in halls constructed for the purpose. Spurred by the growth the community experienced during the 1920s, many older groups constructed new homes. The Masonic Temple embodies this trend, and displays the modernistic style fashionable at the end of the decade.

The Masonic Temple is therefore historically significant as an important community institution that has, over its existence, played a leading role in the social life of many residents of Santa Ana and the surrounding areas. Both the impressive design of the building and its scale are physical evidence of the dominance of Santa Ana as it grew along with Orange County. The Masonic Temple is also architecturally significant, as a fine example of the Art Deco style and as an illustration of the skill of its architect, W. Horace Austin.

Character defining exterior features of the Masonic Temple which should be preserved include, but may not be limited to: building configuration and massing; roof shape, materials, and treatment; primary and secondary exterior materials; symmetrical design; original public entries; original fenestration; tower; and significant interior spaces and materials where extant.

**SUMMARY/CONCLUSION:**

This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 as a contributor to the Downtown Historic District. Under the regulations implementing the California Register of Historical Resources, the building is also listed in the California Register. Listed in the Santa Ana Register of Historical Property, the Masonic Temple has been categorized as “Landmark” because it “is on the national register,” “is on the state register,” “has historical/cultural significance to the City of Santa Ana,” and “has a unique architectural significance” (Municipal Code, Section 30-2.2).

**OWNER AND ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**RECORDED BY:** (Name, affiliation, and address)  
Leslie J. Heumann  
Science Applications International Corporation  
35 S. Raymond Avenue, Suite 204, Pasadena, CA 91105

**DATE RECORDED:** July 3, 2001

**SURVEY TYPE:** (Intensive, reconnaissance, or other)  
Intensive Survey Update

**REPORT CITATION:** (Cite survey report and other sources)  
City of Santa Ana, *Santa Ana's Historic Treasures*.  
Les, Kathleen. "Santa Ana Historic Survey, Final Resources Inventory: Downtown." May 1980.  
Thomas, Harold M. "Downtown Santa Ana Historic District" National Register nomination form,  
1984.

**REFERENCES:** (List documents, date of publication, and page numbers. May also include oral interviews.)  
Harris, Cyril M. *American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. New York, WW Norton, 1998.  
Marsh, Diann. *Santa Ana, An Illustrated History*. Encinitas, Heritage Publishing, 1994.  
McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.  
National Register Bulletin 16A. "How to Complete the National Register Registration Form."  
Washington DC: National Register Branch, National Park Service, US Department of the Interior,  
1991.  
Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1969.  
Internet: [www.beachcalifornia.com/lbhis3.html](http://www.beachcalifornia.com/lbhis3.html)  
*Orange County Masonic Bulletin*, Volume VI, Number 10, October 1931.  
Wheeler, Roy S. *A Century of Reflection*. (No publisher or date given; circa 1975).

**EVALUATOR:** Leslie J. Heumann      **DATE OF EVALUATION:** July 3, 2001

**EXPLANATION OF CODES:**

- National Register Criteria for Evaluation: (From Appendix 7 of Instructions for Recording Historical Resources, Office of Historic Preservation)
  - A:** that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
  - C:** that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
  
- National Register Status Code: (From Appendix 2 of Instructions for Recording Historical Resources, Office of Historic Preservation)
  - 1D:** Contributor to a listed district.